Rubottom Says Castro Spurned Aid in 1959

The United States made repeated efforts to improve relations with the Castro government of Cuba—and on one occasion offered aid—but the approaches were rebuffed, officials recalled yesterday.

In the end Premier Fidel Castro aligned himself publicly with Russia, Red China and communism.

The aid offer was made in April 1959 by Assistant Secretary of State Roy Rubottom, when Castro visited Washington and addressed the American Society of Newspaper Editors. He had taken control of the government in Cuba only about three months earlier.

Exploratory efforts to find ways to ease growing differences continued into the first part of 1960, but by that time did not involve any proposals of aid, officials said. By then Castro had seized much U.S. property in Cuba and was becoming more deeply involved with the Russians.